

## EDITORIAL

In 1985, several European computer science associations, namely the French AFCET, the Italian AICA, the British BCS and the German GI, have joined in an effort to establish a high-quality conference series on programming and programming languages. This series, the *European Symposium on Programming*, is a successor to the Colloque International sur la Programmation and the GI-workshops on Programmiersprachen und Programmentwicklung (programming languages and program development).

The first such conference, ESOP'86, was held at the Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken, from March 17–19, 1986. All committee members decided that ESOP should contain papers about “theory-based practice” respectively “theoretical papers of practical relevance”. The programme committee received about 100 submitted papers from 19 countries, 28 articles were selected for the conference and the proceedings of ESOP'86 were published by Springer in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series. Maurice Nivat, Editor-in-Chief of *Theoretical Computer Science*, proposed to Reinhard Wilhelm and me, chairman of ESOP'86, to guest-edit a special issue of TCS. We have made a choice from among the 28 papers presented at the symposium; the papers which now compose this issue have been refereed and revised.

The domains illustrated by these articles are the following:

- functional programming using parallelism,
- relations between specifications,
- denotational semantics for code generation,
- and, finally, nondeterministic rewriting.

This selection reflects our objective of theory with practical relevance and it seems to us a good overview of the entire ESOP'86 programme.

This special area of research in computer science is very fruitful: following this very good first symposium, ESOP'88 will be held in Nancy, France, from March 21–25, 1988.

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